

RECOGNIZING GABRIEL PEREZ

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, Gabriel Perez, the Director of the Saginaw Michigan Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center, has been appointed as the new Health System Administrator/Medical Center Director of the Veterans Affairs HealthCare System in Phoenix, Arizona. He will start his new position on July 19, 2009.

Mr. Perez graduated from Loyola University in 1968, attended the University of California at Los Angeles Law School and obtained his Master's Degree in Public and Health Care Administration from the University of Southern California. Prior to his work with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Perez spent several years working for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and teaching courses at the university level in medical legal law and personnel.

Prior to becoming the Director of the Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2000, Mr. Perez was the Chief Operating Officer and Acting Director of the Honolulu VA Medical and Regional Office Center. Since assuming his duties in Saginaw, he led the facility to improve its overall performance and move to a top ten spot among Department of Veterans Affairs facilities nationwide, ranking 3rd in the nation for its hospital grouping. From October 2005 to August 2006 he also served as Acting Director of the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

Patient care and safety has been his primary concern and his practices have earned him the respect of his peers. The delivery efficiencies he developed have been adopted nationwide and have won awards for improving VeteranCare delivery. He is a member of several professional organizations and community groups. His work with veterans, Hispanics, workers and children has been recognized numerous times and he is a regular participant in efforts to promote veterans and Hispanics at the local and national levels.

Madam Speaker, Gabriel Perez has brought insight and innovation to the day-to-day operations of the Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center over the past 9 years. He has worked to enhance the health and well-being of veterans, improve service to veterans, and expand accessibility for all veterans. I congratulate him on his new position and wish him the best as he enters this new phase of his life.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2009*

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmark I secured as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

My request, totaling \$280,000, will come from the Surveys, Investigations & Research

account at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the Groundwater and Stormwater Protection program in McHenry County, Illinois. The funding would be used to accelerate work on studies associated with the implementation of McHenry County's Groundwater Protection Program. McHenry County is continuing to experience rapid population growth and there is a critical need to plan for the future. The county's program is working to address the protection of groundwater resources, stormwater drainage and detention, stream and wetland protection, and sustainable growth all into a single program. Ongoing and future development poses serious challenges because of the reduction of the land's ability to absorb precipitation and the continuing pressure to develop flood prone areas. The McHenry County government has already invested over \$615,000 of local resources in studying local groundwater resources and stormwater investigations. The local USGS entity to receive funding for this request is the Illinois Water Science Center at 1201 West University Avenue, Suite 100, in Urbana, Illinois 61801, who will work in partnership with McHenry County to implement this initiative.

Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative DAVID OBEY, and the Ranking Minority Member, Representative JERRY LEWIS, and the Chairman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative NORM DICKS, and the Ranking Minority Member, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, for working with me in a bipartisan manner to include this critical request in this spending bill.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2009*

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding projects that are listed in H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures, Title: Saylor Cement Kilns Historic Preservation, Legal Name of Requesting Entity: County of Lehigh, Address of Requesting Entity: 17 South 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18101, Description of Request: This funding will be used to stabilize and restore the historic Coplay Company Cement Kilns, known locally as the Saylor Cement Kilns, a unique industrial feature built between 1892 and 1893 that is key to the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's industrial story. The Saylor Cement Kilns are in a state of serious decay, prompting concerns about public safety and liability, as well as the potential loss of a significant historical landmark in the Lehigh Valley region. Rehabilitating the kilns will have a positive impact on local economic development through increased heritage tourism. Once restored, the site will encourage use for historical education and community events.

Bill Number: H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Account: EPA, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, Title: Vera Cruz Wastewater Collection System, Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lehigh County Authority, Address of Requesting Entity: 1053 Spruce Street, P.O. Box 3348, Allentown, PA 18106, Description of Request: This funding will be used to build a wastewater collection system for the Vera Cruz area of Upper Milford Township. On-lot sewer disposal systems in the area are failing, causing environmental damage and public health concerns. The project will provide central sewer service to approximately 284 properties in the village of Vera Cruz and the surrounding area. Funds will be used for construction, engineering services and purchase of capacity in downstream transportation and treatment facilities.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2009*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Bill: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Borough of Hopatcong located at 111 River Styx Road, Hopatcong, New Jersey 07843.

Description of Request: H.R. 2996 includes \$500,000 for the Borough of Hopatcong's Drinking Water Disinfection Improvement project to provide safe drinking water to the residents of the Borough. The funds will be used to install large diameter pipes at public community supply wells to improve the disinfection of the raw water before being distributed.

Bill: H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Land Acquisition (Fish and Wildlife Service)

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge located at 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920.

Description of Request: H.R. 2996 includes \$750,000 for the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, a component of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Great Swamp Refuge is located in Morris County, New Jersey, about 26 miles west of Manhattan's Times Square. The refuge was established by an act of Congress on November 3, 1960. The protection of this gem of wilderness in the heart of dense suburban development is one of the success stories of our National Wilderness Preservation System. The funding would be used to acquire an 18.31 acre parcel of land, known as the Great